



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2013

To: Representative BROOKS of Winterport
Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, EVANGELOS of Friendship,
FARNSWORTH of Portland, JONES of Freedom, MORRISON of South
Portland, SCHNECK of Bangor, STANLEY of Medway, WINCHENBACH of
Waldoboro.

From: Chandler Woodcock, Commissioner

Subject: Letter regarding L.D. 142 in lieu of testimony.

Dear Committee Members,

L.D. 142 would modify the current definition of “Guide” in Title 12 to include: using an all-terrain vehicle.

The current definition of “Guide” in Title 12 reads as follows: “Guide” means a person who receives any form of remuneration for that person’s services in accompanying or assisting a person in the fields, forests, or on the waters or ice within the jurisdiction of the State while hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, snowmobiling or camping at a primitive camping area.

When the current definition of “Guide” was enacted all-terrain vehicles were virtually non-existent. Today the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife registers over 62,000 ATV’s annually and provides enforcement on over 6000 miles of authorized ATV trails in the State. On average the Maine Warden Service investigates over 200 ATV related crashes every year.

Currently there are numerous outfitters offering “Guided” ATV tours/trips while not actually being required to possess a “Guides” license. With the inherent risks that go along with the operation of ATV’s in often remote and rugged areas of the state it seems appropriate to include All Terrain Vehicles into the list of activities included in the definition of “Guide”. As previously stated boating and snowmobiling already exist within the definition.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact Christl Theriault, Assistant to the Commissioner at 287-1197 or Becky Orff, Secretary in the Commissioner’s Office at 287-5202.